Using the Straight Stitch in Embroidery

By CHERYL FALL | Updated on 06/29/20

Mollie Johanson

PROJECT OVERVIEW

SKILL LEVEL: Beginner

The straight stitch is probably the first embroidery stitch you should learn. Use it to create a straight, long stitch individually or in groups to form patterns. This popular surface embroidery stitch can be stitched on any embroidery fabric, including plain weave.

Advertisement

Using straight stitches a imple leaves and
flowers or geometric de g a textured look in a
design. You can mark th stitch freestyle,
creating an infinite nun

Advertisement

For some projects, embroidered clothing and household linens, you will want to be careful that the stitches aren't too long, as they may get snagged. A snagged stitch will result in puckering since the previous and next stitch are pulled towards it. For long stra ad.

Notes

Advertisement

Practice on a small squa choice, using needles of type and size approp

What You'll Need

Equipment / To

- Embroidery hoop sized for practice cloth
- Embroidery needle, size between 1 and 5

Ruler

Materials

- Small square of cotton fabric for practicing
- Six-strand embroidery floss

Instructions

Straight stitch is made with one up and one down motion of the needle, regardless of your preferred stitching method. Each stitch is always separated from the next, whether scattered in a design or grouped in a pattern.

01 Getting Ready

If you are still learning to stitch, go ahead and mark your fabric with a few practice lines. Draw ngth in series or arranged as shown and a water-soluble pen or a pencil.

Place the fabric in of six-strand embroidery floss a ry needle. Knot the other end.

Advertisement

Advertisement

02 Working Straight Stitch

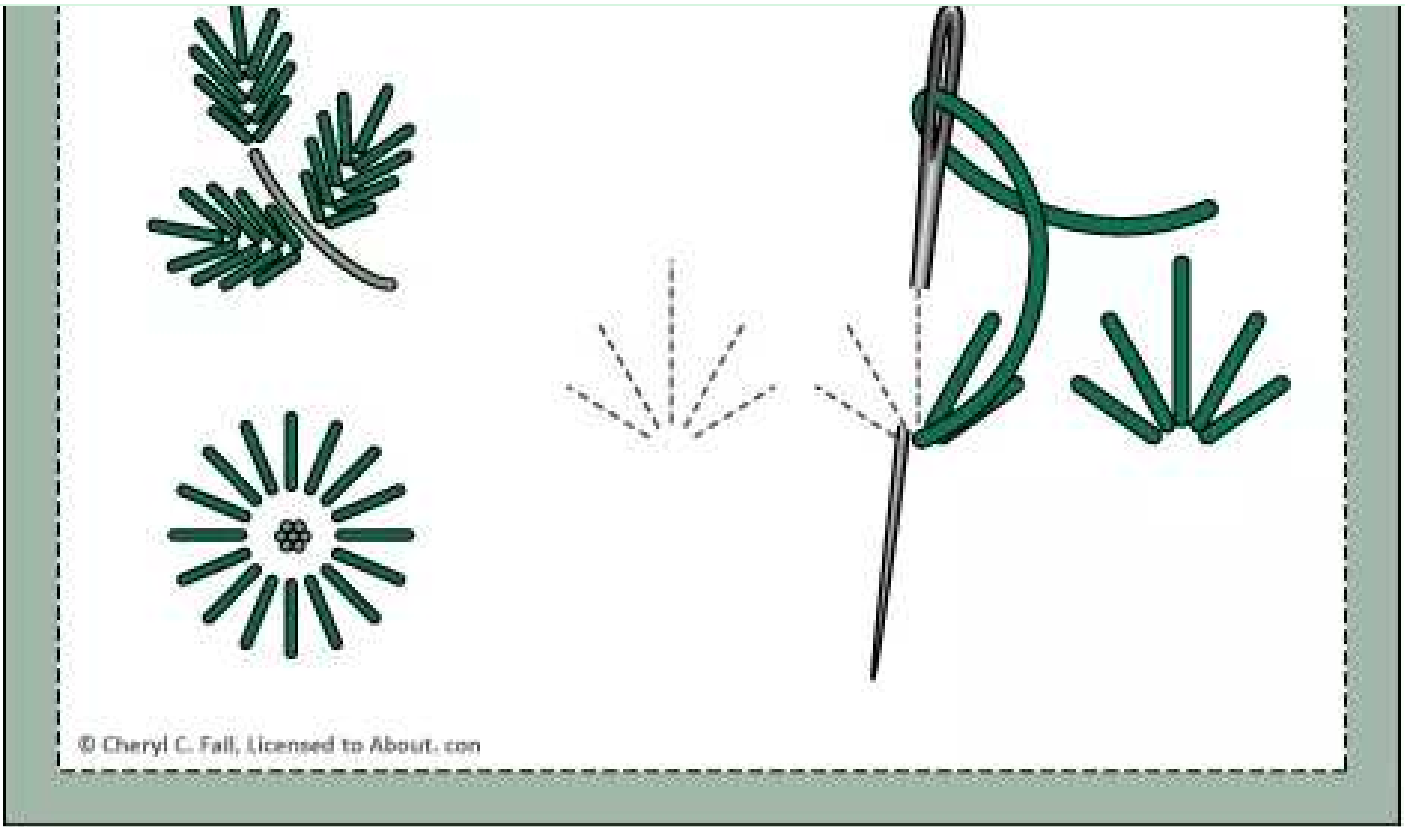
To begin, bring the needle up from the back of the fabric to the front at the end point of one of your short lines.

- Take the needle down at the opposite end of the stitch line.
- Bring the needle up at the closest next stitch.
- Take the needle down at the opposite end of the stitch line.

Continue stitching in the same manner, bringing the needle up and taking it down at the end of the stitch line.

Tip

Working several straight stitches parallel to each other can cause the fabric to pull. Avoid this by stabilizing your material before stitching.



03 Combinations

Straight stitch is so simple to do, it almost seems unnecessary to give directions. But this stitch is a building block for your embroidery as you work patterns in a variety of styles.

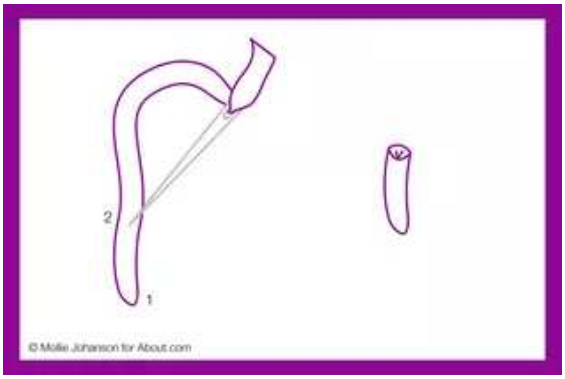
Straight stitches worked in different lengths can become so many different things, from a star or flower to a grouping that spreads from a horizontal plane, sometimes called *point russe* stitch.

Examples and Ideas for Use

Straight stitch is useful for stitching fur on animal motifs and can be scattered to create a fill. This member of the straight stitch family is called seed stitch. Keep the stitches all going in the general direction that the hairs of the fur would be growing on an animal, altering the angle of the stitches slightly for visual interest.

comes alive in landscapes, animal portraits, and other whimsical designs. Try it yourself by working it all around a pattern that outlined with backstitch.

With ribbon embroidery, a single straight stitch can be quite bold, depending on the ribbon you are using. It makes excellent flower buds, lavender, and bits of foliage. Try using straight stitch in new ways as you work your favorite embroidery patterns. You may find that it adds the texture and dimension that you need.



EMBROIDERY BASICS

How to Work the Most Common Stitch for Ribbon Embroidery

By MOLLIE JOHANSON

CROSS-STITCH BASICS

Learn the 5 Basic Stitches in Cross Stitch

By PAM PEDERSEN

EMBROIDERY

Learn Every Embroidery Stitch You'll Ever Need

By CHERYL FALL

By MOLLIE JOHANSON

CROSS-STITCH BASICS

Put Your Back into It: How to Back Stitch

By MOLLIE JOHANSON

EMBROIDERY BASICS

Learn How to Make a Feather Stitch and Its Variations

By CHERYL FALL

EMBROIDERY BASICS

How to Work the Blanket Stitch

By CHERYL FALL

EMBROIDERY BASICS

Master the Chain Stitch for Your Embroidery With These Steps

By CHERYL FALL

EMBROIDERY

Learn How to Work a Star Embroidery Stitch

By MOLLIE JOHANSON

EMBROIDERY PATTERNS

Stitch a Beautiful Embroidery Design for Thanksgiving

By MOLLIE JOHANSON

EMBROIDERY BASICS

Use Woven Wheel Stitch to Make Stunning Flowers

By MOLLIE JOHANSON

EMBROIDERY PATTERNS

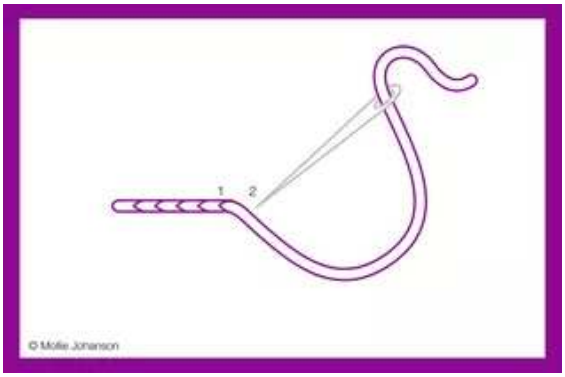
Welcome Winter With a Free Hand-Lettered Embroidery Pattern

By MOLLIE JOHANSON

EMBROIDERY

The Ultimate Embroidery Quick-Start Guide

By MOLLIE JOHANSON



EMBROIDERY BASICS

Working Split Stitch in Hand Embroidery

By MOLLIE JOHANSON

EMBROIDERY PATTERNS

Fill Your Home With Embroidered Flowers

By MOLLIE JOHANSON

Enter your email

SIGN UP

Follow us:

DIY PROJECTS

NEEDLECRAFTS

PAPER CRAFTS

KIDS' CRAFTS

HOBBIES

BEADWORK

WHAT TO BUY

About Us

Terms Of Use

Editorial Guidelines

Cookies

California Privacy Notice

Advertise

Careers

Privacy Policy

Contact

Do Not Sell My Personal Information

PRIVACY FEEDBACK
Powered by TRUSTe

Dotdash meredith

The Spruce Crafts is part of the Dotdash Meredith publishing family.

We've updated our Privacy Policy, which will go in to effect on September 1, 2022. Review our Privacy Policy